

Northfield Conservation Committee
Land Stewardship Advisory Subcommittee
Minutes

March 3, 2016

Present: Nick Fleck, Joanne McGee, Bob Pasteris, Katherine Johnson

Absent: Charlie Blanker, Julia Blyth, Jerry Wagener

Meeting was convened at 7:00 pm.

January 2016 minutes were approved without changes, Katherine/Bob, 4-0.

The final draft of the purpose statement was reviewed. This is the document that was discussed and approved, with a few suggested changes, by the Northfield Conservation Commission at their regular meeting on January 20, 2016. The edited statement of purpose was accepted by the subcommittee, Joanne/Nick, 4-0.

The subcommittee discussed the possibility of vernal pool certification on town lands. Some specific possible vernal pool sites were mentioned in both the Town Forest and on Brush Mountain, with a Conway School of Landscape Design report on the original 123 Acres of the forest as a source for likely locations. Nick plans to ask staff at Mt. Grace and also Mike Barry for a copy of this report.

Katherine presented some information about the vernal pool certification process.

Katherine will look into the ramifications of certification.

Nick asked Penny Betsold at PVRS if her students would be interested in certifying pools this spring, but she said the curriculum is full for this year. Possibly individual students may be interested.

Nick plans to ask Charlie Eiseman about the process, as he may have done it before. Bob and Katherine planned to go look at the Brush Mtn property the following weekend for likely vernal pool sites.

Joanne suggested that the subcommittee inspect boundary markers for all three town properties. We can ask Mike Barry for help with this.

Joanne presented several land management plan examples and guides, with links to the online management plans for some other towns. This information included links to plans for the town of Harwich, the Table of Contents for the Bells Neck plan, a land management plan template from the Aldo Leopold Foundation, and the Ashby Conservation Commission Plan.

Mallory Durke of Mt. Grace asked when would be a good time to schedule a workshop about land monitoring. This workshop is not in the field, and we would like to open it up to other towns. It was agreed that a date in May would be the earliest possible. Joanne will ask for a date on this, and ascertain how long the training will be.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Submitted,

Nick Fleck